

May 11, 1960

Dr. Robert S. Morison
Biological and Medical Research
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Bob:

I'm not sure that I have done my duty in keeping you informed of the progress of our work on the planetary microscope. In any case the procurement of basic equipment has taken most of the time to date and there would not be much to say. We could not have gotten started, even this far, without the generous help that the Foundation gave in its premonitory grant. I thought you would be interested to hear that the NASA has finally given formal approval to support from them in the amount of about \$30,000 for direct expenses during the next year. Unless we have to buy a payload package ourselves, this should keep us going very well for the time being. I'm becoming quite intrigued by the possibilities of ultraviolet microscopy for other aspects of our cytochemical work and they should tie in very well when our apparatus is put together. I hope that the Foundation can take pleasure in its ability to move quickly in a sensitive area where a fairly small amount of funds was quite important. I'm sure that the NASA and other agencies can take it from here.

The events of the last week have obviously cast a shadow on the role of NASA as a civilian agency dedicated to the peaceful exploration of space for scientific purposes. It certainly will not help us in our efforts to achieve some kind of mutual understanding with Russian scientists on exobiological problems. I imagine the subject will have to come up at the next meeting of the Space Science Board. Being rather bewildered as to the tack, if any, that we might adopt I would be quite agreeable to hearing whatever ideas you might have on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

MORISON, R.S.